

(d) If so, the exact quantity that can be spared and whether the mode of transactions have been worked out ;

(e) whether a record grain stock of nearly 21 million tonnes has been built up in the country ; and

(f) whether the grain procurement has already reached the target fixed by the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) There is no proposal to export wheat at present.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No targets of procurement of rice and wheat are fixed. However, out of 1983-84 crop, a record level of 16.94 million tonnes of Cereals has been procured till 4.8.1984.

Use of Flood Water of Brahmaputra

3254. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra continues to flood every year and destroy a large areas in various States every year ;

(b) if so, whether Government had made a proposal for using the flood waters of Brahmaputra in a different way so that the areas affected by the floods continuously is saved ;

(c) if so, whether the scheme of utilising the flood waters of Brahmaputra has not so far been even undertaken ;

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same ; and

(e) the steps being taken to initiate the scheme of preventing floods by Brahmaputra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARINATHA MISRA) : (a) to (e). Floods in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries seriously affect the Brahmaputra Valley every year. Appreciating the problem of flood and erosion in the Brahmaputra basin, the Central Government has constituted the Brahmaputra Board in pursuance of the Brahmaputra Board Act of 1980. The Board, which has started functioning early 1982, is to prepare a Master Plan for controlling floods, bank erosion and improvement of the drainage keeping regard to the development of water resources for other beneficial purposes. The Board has undertaken this work. Preparation of the Master Plan for the river of the size of the Brahmaputra is a complex task and is expected to take quite some time.

Pending finalisation of the Master Plan by the Brahmaputra Board, the State Government has been carrying out various flood control measures. The Government of Assam has provided reasonable protection to an area of about 13.27 lakh ha. upto March 1983. Government of India is also providing loan assistance to the Government of Assam for flood control works in the Brahmaputra Valley and a loan assistance of Rs. 97 crores has been provided upto March 1984.

Proposal to Increase Seed Production during Seventh Plan

3255. SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :
SHRI ARJUN SETH :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase seed production six-fold during the Seventh Plan ;

(b) if so, whether a comprehensive action programme has been drawn up to raise the output from 3.98 million quintals in 1983-84 to 22.6 million quintals by 1989-90 ;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to produce and distribute 200 lakh quintals of certified seeds ; and

(d) if so, the other main features that are being considered to increase the seed output in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (d). According to the present estimate, the requirements of breeder, foundation and certified seeds in the penultimate year (1989-90) of the Seventh Five Year Plan are likely to be of the order of 3 lakh, 13 lakh and 200 lakh quintals respectively. The matter was discussed in a meeting with the State Governments and Ten Point Action Programme was chalked out for production and distribution of the above quantum of seeds in the country. The main features of the Action Programme are as follows :—

- (i) Setting up of State Level Committees to do advance planning, monitoring and coordination amongst various agencies involved in seed production and distribution ;
- (ii) Setting up of required number of processing plants ;
- (iii) Strengthening of Seed Certification Agencies, Seed Testing Laboratories and Enforcement Machinery ;
- (iv) Maintenance of buffer stocks by National Seeds Corporation, State Seed Corporations and State Farms Corporation of India ;
- (v) Construction of conditioned storage for seeds of adequate capacity ;
- (vi) Increase of retail points for seeds and introduction of mobile vans for making seeds available to the farmers in time ;
- (vii) Regulation of quality, price and distribution of seeds ;
- (viii) Development of Seed Farms in each block throughout the country ;

(ix) Intensive extension effort for popularising certified seeds of improved varieties and for implementation of the concept of seed villages ;

(x) Financial assistance in the form of short-term loan, equity, etc. to the seed producers and distributors in the Institutional Sectors.

Financial Assistance Rendered by Commercial and Cooperative Banks under IRDP in Tamil Nadu

3256. SHRI B.V. DESAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commercial and cooperative banks in Tamil Nadu have enabled nearly three lakh families to cross the poverty line last year by rendering about Rs. 60 crores as financial assistance under the Integrated Rural Development Programme ;

(b) whether these banks have also extended Rs. 28.29 crores under the differential interest rate scheme to the economically weaker sections covering more than three lakh beneficiaries in 1983-84 ;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has also asked the commercial and cooperative banks in various States to follow schemes that have been introduced in Tamil Nadu by the commercial and cooperative banks ; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the other States have been able to implement the Integrated Rural Development Programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI):

(a) During 1983-84, 2.77 lakh families have been assisted in Tamil Nadu under IRDP. An amount of Rs. 5975.09 lakhs has been advanced as term credit by banks.

(b) Information regarding DRI loans granted to economically weaker sections is not being collected by this Ministry.

(c) and (d). IRDP has been extended to all blocks in the country. A statement showing state-wise progress made during 1980-84 under I.R.D.P. is enclosed.